

I heard that when the Soldiers get back from Iraq, they will deploy straight to Fort Carson. I am not yet ready to move. Is all of this true?

While it is true that the 4th Infantry Division is slated to move to Fort Carson, Colorado (FCCO) sometime after the Division returns from Iraq, it will not be immediate, nor will it be a mass exodus from Texas to Colorado.

Sometime after the Soldiers return, but not beginning until late spring or early summer of 2007, the 4ID will begin to transition to FCCO. However, this will not involve all of the Soldiers of the Division. If a Soldier is in the 4BCT or the Fires Brigade, he or she will remain on Fort Hood as those two brigades leave the 4ID. Soldiers in the Aviation Brigade and Support Brigade will also leave the 4th ID, but their movement timelines and their destinations are not yet determined. Soldiers in the 3BCT are already in FCCO, so they will not move.

In the few months before the 4ID returns to the US, the Army will set up two brigades in FCCO and will begin to fill those units with new Soldiers. These new brigades will later become part of the 4ID, but as you can see, the Soldiers going into those units will already be at FCCO.

For Soldiers in 1BCT, 2BCT, and the Division Headquarters, there will be many options open to them. Many Soldiers were retained in the Division past the time they would normally have left the Army, retired, or moved to other posts around the country due to an Army policy enacted in wartime called "Stop-Loss". These Soldiers, and Soldiers who had school dates pushed back, will be allowed to leave the Army or move to new units (or their schools) 90 days after the Division returns. Other Soldiers will elect to participate in moving to FCCO with their families, and will be stabilized there as part of the 4ID. Still others will re-enlist for either the units within the 4ID or for other units or locations that the Army has to offer, including other units on Fort Hood.

In the final analysis, only a small percentage of Soldiers in the Division will make an actual move to FCCO, unless, of course, large numbers of Soldiers and families choose to move. Soldiers most likely affected by the move to FCCO will be those in command and branch-qualifying positions. And as with all personnel moves there are numerous considerations (i.e. school age children - high school seniors, military school requirements, promotion eligibility, time on station, time remaining on current enlistment, exceptional family members, etc.) 4ID forward is discussing these possibilities with the Soldiers forward. There are no guarantees as we take the Soldiers' preferences that everyone will get exactly what they want, and the requirements across the various sites and units must be filled with the proper rank and MOS composition. These options will also be posted to the 4ID web site soon so our families can have informed discussions with their Soldiers when they 'call home'. We will inevitably not be able to meet *everyone's* top wish, but we wanted to surface the options as early as possible so these returning heroes and their families would have an opportunity to affect the process and have an advantage in this process vice delaying and allowing the process to drive their choices. The great Iron Horse Soldiers and their families deserve nothing less.